

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Municipal Clerk Traci DiBenedetto welcomed everyone to Scudder Hall and stated that Notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Ms. DiBenedetto asked Police Chief Craig Dispenza to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence.

Ms. DiBenedetto introduced New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal to administer the Oath of Office to Mayor Kevin A. Kane. Senator Gopal administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Kane who was joined by his family. Mayor Kane thanked everyone for their support and work during the campaign.

Mayor Kane introduced Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling to administer the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Margaret Rogers. Assemblyman Houghtaling administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Rogers who was joined by her family.

Mayor Kane introduced Manalapan Deputy Mayor to administer the Oath of Office to Councilman Adam Reich. Deputy Mayor Susan Cohen administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Reich who was joined by his family.

Mayor Kane introduced Reverend Ronald Sparks from Bethel AME Church who gave the Invocation.

#### ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DI BENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN ANNETTE JORDAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN ADAM REICH
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN MARGARET ROGERS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER

Mayor Kane read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with Kerry E. Higgins, Esq. for Borough Legal Services.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ. FOR BOROUGH LEGAL SERVICES.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with William T. Wentzien, PE, LS of Abbington Engineering, LLC for Borough Engineering Services.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WILLIAM T. WENTZIEN, PE, LS OF ABBINGTON ENGINEERING, LLC FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with Mott MacDonald for Borough Consulting Engineering Services – Utility.”**

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MOTT MACDONALD FOR BOROUGH CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES – UTILITY.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with Pennoni for Planning Services.”**

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Reich:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH PENNONI FOR PLANNING SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with Meghan Bennett Clark of GluckWalrath, LLP for Borough Bond Counsel Services.”**

Councilman Reich offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MEGHAN BENNETT CLARK OF GLUCKWALRATH, LLP FOR BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with Suplee, Clooney & Company for Borough Auditor Services.”**

Councilwoman Jordan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain Schnurr; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with DMR Architects for Architectural Services.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DMR ARCHITECTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with NW Financial Group for Financial Advisor Services.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NW FINANCIAL GROUP FOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with Louis Rainone of Rainone Coughlin Minchello for Fair Share Housing Plan Legal Services and Litigation.”**

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH LOUIS RAINONE OF RAINONE COUGHLIN MINCHELLO FOR FAIR SHARE HOUSING PLAN LEGAL SERVICES AND LITIGATION.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2020 Professional Services Contract with CME Associates for Borough Alternate Engineering/Planning/Water Utility Services.”**

Councilwoman Jordan offered the following Resolutions and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CME ASSOCIATES FOR BOROUGH ALTERNATE ENGINEERING/PLANNING/WATER UTILITY SERVICES.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 16 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Municipal Prosecutor for the Year 2020: Robert S. Cosgrove, Esq.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolutions and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2020: ROBERT S. COSGROVE, ESQ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Borough Substitute/Alternate Prosecutors for the Year 2020.”**

Councilman Reich offered the following Resolutions and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING BOROUGH SUBSTITUTE/ALTERNATE PROSECUTORS FOR THE YEAR 2020.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Public Defender for the Year 2020: Jonathan Lomurro.”**

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE YEAR 2020: JONATHAN LOMURRO.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

**Resolution Accepting the Mayor's Nominations and Appointments for the Year 2020:**

<b>a.</b>	<b>Deputy Clerk</b>	<b>Stephen J. Gallo</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>b.</b>	<b>Registrar/ Deputy Registrar</b>	<b>Mary Cruz Lynn Cannon</b>	<b>1 year 1 year</b>
<b>c.</b>	<b>Treasurer and Collector Water &amp; Sewer Rents</b>	<b>Richard J. Gartz</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>d.</b>	<b>Deputy Treasurer</b>	<b>Kathleen Caruso</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>e.</b>	<b>Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner Alternate</b>	<b>Stephen J. Gallo Richard J. Gartz</b>	<b>1 year 1 year</b>
<b>f.</b>	<b>Tax Search Officer</b>	<b>Patricia Berg</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>g.</b>	<b>Borough Historian</b>	<b>Kevin Coyne</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>h.</b>	<b>Board of Health</b>	<b>Dr. William McGonigle</b>	<b>4 years</b>
<b>i.</b>	<b>Emergency Management:</b>		
	<b>Michael Sweetman</b>	<b>Dep. Coordinator</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Chief Craig Dispenza</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Chief Robbie Bailey</b>	<b>Fire and Rescue</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Stephen J. Gallo</b>	<b>Damage Assessment</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Matt Young</b>	<b>Fire Prevention Rep.</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Kevin A. Kane</b>	<b>(Ex-Officio)</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Captain (FFAS) or Duly Authorized</b>	<b>First Aid Squad</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Margaret Jahn</b>	<b>Health Department</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Joseph Floudas</b>	<b>Public Works Dept.</b>	<b>1 year</b>
	<b>Mike Baker</b>	<b>Water Plant</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>j.</b>	<b>Fire Prevention Bureau: Mathew Young</b>	<b>(State License Required) Fire Official</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>k.</b>	<b>Human Relations Committee</b>	<b>Jane Fields</b>	<b>3 years</b>

		Shauntele Patterson	3 years
		Claire Morales	3 years
		Rev. Dirk Reinken	3 years
		Paul Jensen, School Bd.	1 year
<b>l.</b>	<b>Historic Preservation Committee</b>	Brianne Kozlowski	3 years
		Gil Burgess	3 years
<b>m.</b>	<b>Housing Authority</b>	Ruthann Broxmeyer	5 years
<b>n.</b>	<b>Lake Topanemus Commission</b>	Edward Daley	3 years
<b>o.</b>	<b>Library Commission</b>	Barbara Jennette	5 years
		John Shea	5 years
		Elisha Carter	
		(Mayor's Appt)	1 year
		Jamie Corbett	
		(Alt. to Superintendent of Schools)	1 year
<b>p.</b>	<b>Memorial Day Parade Committee</b>	Alice McCobb, Chair.	1 year
		Amanda McCobb,	
		Vice Chair.	1 year
		Bernard Weinstein	1 year
		Ken Pulchlopek	1 year
		Sidney Blacknall	1 year
		Edward Temple	1 year
		Karen Ketcham	1 year
<b>q.</b>	<b>Municipal Alliance</b>	Jeff Friedman	2 years
		Annette Jordan	1 year
		Police Dept. Designee	1 year
		Rocco G. Tomazic,	
		Superintendent	
		Freehold Borough Schools	1 year
		Eva Carella, FHS Counselor	1 year
<b>r.</b>	<b>Participatory Budget</b>	Joanna Connelly	1 year
		Scott Corbett	1 year
		Carey Freyre	1 year
		Joan Leuth	1 year
		Don Schaffner	1 year
		Kara Cannon	1 year

		<b>Carla Ramirez</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>s.</b>	<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>Garry Jackson</b>	<b>1 year</b>
		<b>Michael Wildermuth</b>	<b>4 years</b>
		<b>Shealyn M.S. Crombie</b>	
		<b>(rep. Adam Reich)</b>	<b>2 years</b>
		<b>Caridad Argote-Freyre,</b>	
		<b>Alternate 1</b>	<b>2 years</b>
<b>t.</b>	<b>Shade Tree</b>	<b>Roman Janocha</b>	<b>5 years</b>
		<b>Cheryl Greenfield</b>	<b>5 years</b>
		<b>Jamie Corbett</b>	<b>5 years”</b>

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 ITEM NO. 19A THROUGH 19T.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Affirmative Action Officer for the Year 2020: Stephen J. Gallo.”**

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Reich:

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2020: STEPHEN J. GALLO.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 21 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Community Development Representative and Alternates for the Year 2020: Stephen J. Gallo, Richard J. Gartz and Michael Sweetman.”**



Councilwoman Jordan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATES FOR THE YEAR 2020: STEPHEN J. GALLO, RICHARD J. GARTZ AND MICHAEL SWEETMAN.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 22 on the Agenda as follows:

**"Resolution Appointing Freehold Borough Special Police Officers for the Year 2020."**

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLD BOROUGH SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2020.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

**"Election by Council of President for Year 2020: Councilman Michael DiBenedetto."**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

ELECTION BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT FOR YEAR 2020: COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO.

Councilman Schnurr stated Councilman DiBenedetto recently marked his 23<sup>rd</sup> year of representing the people of Freehold Borough. He stated Councilman DiBenedetto is a leader and role model. He congratulated him on being elected Council President for 2020.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Mayor’s Appointments of Council Committees for 2020:**

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>		
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Schnurr</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Rogers</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Shutzer</b>	<b>Rogers</b>	<b>Reich</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>DiBenedetto</b>		
<b>Health and Welfare</b>	<b>Jordan</b>		
<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Jordan</b>		
<b>Code Enforcement</b>	<b>Schnurr</b>		
<b>Municipal Court</b>	<b>Schnurr</b>		
<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>DiBenedetto</b>	<b>Shutzer</b>	<b>Jordan”</b>

Mayor Kane read Item No. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Appointment of Council Representatives for Year 2020:**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Representative</b>
<b>Advisory Council on Aging</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>
<b>Board of Education</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>
<b>CSMC Legislative Committee</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>
<b>Community Events</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>
<b>Freehold Center Partnership</b>	<b>Annette Jordan</b>
<b>Green Team</b>	<b>Adam Reich</b>
<b>Historic Preservation</b>	<b>Adam Reich</b>
<b>Human Relations</b>	<b>Adam Reich</b>
<b>Lake Topanemus</b>	<b>Mike DiBenedetto</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>Annette Jordan</b>
<b>Mayor’s Wellness</b>	<b>Annette Jordan</b>
<b>Memorial Day Parade</b>	<b>George Schnurr</b>
<b>Participatory Budgeting</b>	<b>Annette Jordan</b>
<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>Margaret Rogers</b>
<b>Shade Tree Commission</b>	<b>Margaret Rogers</b>
<b>Alliance Against Drugs</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>
<b>Emergency Management</b>	<b>Sharon Shutzer</b>
<b>Veterans Affairs</b>	<b>George Schnurr”</b>

Mayor Kane read Item No. 26 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Providing Notice of 2020 Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold.”**

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF 2020 MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 27 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing the Renewal and Continuance of Bonds for Officials Required to Have Bonds for the Year 2020.”**

Councilwoman Jordan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Reich:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL AND CONTINUANCE OF BONDS FOR OFFICIALS REQUIRED TO HAVE BONDS FOR THE YEAR 2020:

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 28 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Designating Official Newspapers for Year 2020: Asbury Park Press, News Transcript, Star Ledger and The Times of Trenton.”**

Councilman Reich offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR YEAR 2020:  
ASBURY PARK PRESS, NEWS TRANSCRIPT, STAR LEDGER AND THE TIMES OF TRENTON.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain Jordan; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 29 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Fixing the Rate of Interest to Be Charged on Delinquent Taxes, Assessments and Water/Sewer Accounts for 2020.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
FREEHOLD FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON  
DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTS FOR  
2020.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 30 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Distribution of Meeting Agendas and Minutes.”**

Councilman Reich offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF  
MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 31 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Designating Official Holidays for the Employees of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, for the Year 2020.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF  
THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, FOR THE YEAR  
2020.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 32 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Freehold.”**

Councilwoman Jordan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 33 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Designating the Depositories Wherein All Public Monies and Other Funds of the Municipality Shall Be Kept.”**

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD DESIGNATING THE DEPOSITORIES WHEREIN ALL PUBLIC MONIES AND OTHER FUNDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL BE KEPT.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 34 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Providing for 2020 Temporary Budget Appropriations.”**

Councilman Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers:

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 35 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Public Acknowledgements”.**

Mayor Kane welcomed and acknowledged the audience guests: former Mayor Roger Kane, former Mayor Michael Wilson and former Mayor Nolan Higgins, former Councilwoman Lynn Reich who is also a Recreation Commission member, former Councilman and Borough Historian Kevin Coyne, Senator Vin Gopal and his parents, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling and his wife Linda, former Monmouth County Fire Marshall and EMS Coordinator Hank Stryker, Freehold Township Mayor Lester Preston and Deputy Mayor Tom Cook, Red Bank Councilmen Ed Zipprich and Hazim Yassin, Howell Democratic Chairman John McCabe, Manalapan Deputy Mayor Susan Cohen, Joe Grillo from Sustainable Jersey, Pastor Joey Rozek from Living Springs Fellowship, Freehold Borough Officials; Police Chief Craig Dispenza, Fire Chief Robbie Bailey, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Stephen Sheehan, Ex-Chief Bob Taylor, Jim McAllister and Bill Madden from Freehold First Aid. Mayor Kane acknowledged Administrator Steve Gallo, Borough Attorney Kerry Higgins, Municipal Clerk Traci DiBenedetto, Borough Employees; Lynn Cannon, Tax Collector Pat Berg, Mike Sweetman, Dominica Napolitano, Water Plant Supervisor Mike Baker, Public Works Director Joe Floudas, Crossing Guard Dorothy Wright, Library Director Kathy Mulholland and Barbara Jennette. Mayor Kane acknowledged Brian Dougherty and Kyle Smith from Mott MacDonald, Bill Barricelli and Mike Wildermuth from Planning Board, Alice McCobb, Amanda McCobb and Pat McCobb from Memorial Day Parade, Municipal Alliance Co-Chair Jeff Friedman who is also the Business Advocate for Downtown Freehold and Freehold Arts Council, from Human Relations Committee Jane Fields, Claire Morales and Paul Jensen, from Board of Health Bill Madden, Ellen Kane and Vicki Warnock, from Historic Preservation Kevin Coyne and Gil Burgess, Lynn Franco from Marlboro Township, from Shade Tree Commission Cheryl Greenfield and Christine Gregory, Municipal Judge Scott Basen, from Spooktacular and Olde Freehold Day Committees Judi Guy, Mary Randolph, Barbara Kane, Jean Holtz, who is also a Downtown Freehold Board Member and is on the Educational Foundation, Superintendent Dr. Rocco Tomazic, Board of Education members Paul Jensen and Ron Reich, Branford Rogers from the Library, Borough Photographer Allan Goldberg, from Freehold Open Door Sandy Taylor and Babe Warrington, a McGackin Award Winner.

Mayor Kane stated the following:

“Members of the Governing Body, Freehold Borough residents, Senator Gopal, Assemblyman Houghtaling, Elected Officials, Borough Professionals and Employees, Family Members, Friends and Guests; we thank you for joining us today for the annual Reorganization Meeting of the Borough of Freehold Governing Body. It is my pleasure to welcome back to our council Margaret Rogers. Margaret was sworn in last year to fill an unexpired term and proved early on to be an asset to our governing body. She was successfully elected in November to now serve a full three-year term. I’d also like to welcome Adam Reich to the Borough Council. Adam has a long family history of dedicated service and volunteerism to Freehold Borough and most recently served as the Chairman of our Planning Board. I look forward to working with both of you, along with Councilwomen Shutzer and Jordan and Councilmen DiBenedetto and Schnurr for a very exciting year of service for the residents of Freehold Borough. I’d also like to congratulate Councilman DiBenedetto on his selection as Council President for the year 2020.

I would like to thank the voters of Freehold Borough for the confidence you have bestowed upon me in electing me as the Mayor of the Borough of Freehold. I promise to work

hard for you every day and am proud to have the opportunity to serve as the Mayor of the town that we all love so much. I would like to take a minute and thank all of the First Responders; Freehold Borough Police Department, Freehold Fire Department and Freehold EMS who continually work to keep us safe. They are unwavering in their dedication to serve and the entire community is grateful for everything you do. Thank you. I'd like to thank all of our professionals who keep everything running smoothly and most importantly, keep us compliant with all the rules and regulations of municipal government. Thank you. Special thanks to our employees who are front line representation of the governing body with our residents. We are fortunate to have such a great team in place and we thank you for all that you do.

This past year marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Borough of Freehold. Even though Freehold has been around for over 325 years, Freehold Borough and Freehold Township separated 100 years ago. It was a great year of celebrating our history that culminated with the Centennial Celebration in September. Long-time residents, even The Boss himself, tell stories of Freehold Borough based off events that took place throughout our history. The Centennial Celebration is one event that will be talked about for many years to come. I'd like to ask all the members of the Centennial Celebration Committee to please stand as we thank them for an outstanding job coordinating all of the events throughout the year. Chairman Roger Kane and Committee please stand. Thank you so much, it was a tremendous job.

I also need to thank two outstanding public servants who retired after many years of service to Freehold Borough. Joe Bellina and Nolan Higgins. Joe had been the Business Administrator for the last 21 years. He brought a level of professionalism to the Administrator position and always treated every person with dignity and respect no matter what the circumstance. He expected that same professionalism from all Borough employees which now has transcended into an efficient, courteous and very productive work force. Joe was also a leader in bringing improved cost efficiency to the municipal services provided to our residents. This was accomplished through numerous shared services and purchasing agreements with other government entities. Through Joe's leadership, Freehold Borough also obtained over \$1.5 million dollars in grants and he developed an aggressive long range plan of our roadway improvements. At this point I'd like publicly thank Joe Bellina for his years of service to Freehold Borough. Nolan Higgins also comes from a family that has long history of public service to the Borough. Prior to being elected as Mayor, Nolan served as the Chairman of the Freehold Borough Planning Board and he has been an active member of the Freehold Fire Department since 1979. It's not hard to do the math, seeing as how we just finished up 2019, that's over 40 years of service as a volunteer firefighter in Freehold Borough. Also during that time, Nolan served as Company Officer in Engine Company No. 1 and was the Chief of the Freehold Fire Department and is the only person in the history of Freehold Borough to serve as both the Chief of the Fire Department and the Mayor of the Borough of Freehold. Nolan, thank you so much. As Mayor for the past eight years Nolan initiated many programs to ensure Borough resident's ideas and concerns were heard and addressed. Most important was the open office hours once a week. I am proud to announce today that will continue with just a slight change with the day and time. Freehold Borough was blessed to have Nolan Higgins serve as our thirteenth mayor. Thank you Nolan. They will be missed. Joe and Nolan, along with our Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins and our Chief Financial Officer, Ricky Gartz have put us in a fiscally responsible and sound financial position which has made our jobs as elected officials

much easier. For that I thank you. At this point, I would like to introduce Steve Gallo as our new Business Administrator. Steve has experience in all levels of municipal government and his knowledge and passion will be a tremendous asset to our Freehold Borough team. I, along with my colleagues, look forward to working with Steve as we begin this new year. Steve, welcome to Freehold Borough.

Throughout our rich history, during these first 100 years, there were 13 Mayors elected to serve the residents of Freehold. I am honored and humbled to be sworn in today as your 14<sup>th</sup> Mayor. Along with the ninth Mayor, my dad Roger, we will add to this rich history as being the first father and son team to be sworn in as the Mayors of Freehold Borough. As a matter of fact, it is exactly 45 years to the day when my dad was sworn in as Mayor on January 5, 1975 and we have a picture that has hung on the wall of our home for many years and we are going to find a great spot for this in the new Mayor's Office in Freehold Borough Hall. Thanks Dad, for your help, encouragement and guidance in everything I have done throughout the years. I look forward to working with you on implementing new ideas and will cherish the time we will spend together making Freehold Borough a great place to live, work and play. I am sure Grandma and Pop Kane have big smiles on their faces today looking down on us. Thank you. I've always said you are only as good as the people you surround yourself with and I am extremely fortunate to be surrounded by some of the best. I would like to take a minute to talk about and thank the tremendous support system I am blessed to have. First, my wife Ellen. She is not only my wife but also my best friend and was the heart and soul of our campaign. We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary right after the election, but for the grammar school friends of ours from St. Rose who are here today, you know we have been together a lot longer than 40 years. Thank you for everything you do for me and for our family. I love you. For our daughters, Erin, Megan and Katie, it's great to be able to share this with you after all of the hard work everyone has put in throughout the years. It was also comforting to know that during the campaign you had my back with your expertise in today's technology. You guys know exactly what I am talking about. Thank you. My Sons-in-law, Rob and Terrence, thank you for always being there and helping with whatever we need. Ryan, thank you for your innovation and talent in creating our campaign logo as well as the tee shirts and bags. We had many compliments and we want you to know that we really appreciate your efforts. Thank you. Our Grandchildren; Bobby, Anderson, Ellie and Autumn, it brought back so many great memories of growing up working on my dad's campaigns, watching our little buddies in action this year. So much fun and it is never too early to start learning about giving back to your community. Thank you buddies! My parents, Dad and Barb, Mom and John, thank you for creating an environment growing up full of respect, strong morals, values and a great work ethic. It's the fabric that was woven into our lives that I have hopefully passed onto our daughters and grandchildren. We appreciate everything you have done for us and continue to do for us. Thank you. All of my brothers and sisters, Kathy, Rich, Karen, Kyle, Melissa, Dave, Bev, Lenny, Sue and Mike; growing up we were the Freehold version of the Brady Bunch and have continued to grow closer as the years have gone on. We honed our craft working on Dad's campaigns as kids and it was good to see this year that everyone still has their A game. All it takes is a simple phone call when something is needed and the entire family is there to help. Thank you. My Brother In-Law and Sister In-Law, Ted and Kathy, what a blessing it was having you guys move back to Freehold this year. You were instrumental in accomplishing some of the tasks and challenges during the campaign, especially during crunch time. Thanks for everything. My aunts and uncles, Rich, Mary, Carol



and Fred, thank you for all of your help throughout the campaign. You have been involved in the community for as long as I can remember. One of our biggest cheerleaders, my Uncle Rich, unfortunately couldn't be here today, but he just couldn't do enough. It was so great having them as role models growing up because they taught us about giving back to the community and for that we say thank you. My cousins, nieces and nephews; thanks for everything. To our friends and volunteers; thank you for your hard work and dedication. As I have told everyone at a thank you luncheon we had last Sunday, you were the backbone of the campaign and we couldn't have done it without you. I also need to give a special shout out to Julianna Hex for your tireless effort throughout the campaign.

As we enter the next century of history in Freehold Borough, we must never forget our past but plan for our future. As President John F. Kennedy once said, "Change is the law of life and those who only look to the past or present are certain to miss the future." I am going to take a page out of my friend John Hornick's playbook and develop a comprehensive plan which will detail our goals objectives for the next 100 days and beyond. It will basically be comprised of five sections consisting of our first 100 days, the first six months, the first year, two years and the full four years. The plan will be presented at our February 3, 2020 Council Meeting. In the first 100 days we are going to improve our municipal communications and community messaging through social media, email blasts and newsletters. We are going to assess all shared services agreements to guarantee our goal of saving tax payer dollars. We are going to increase transparency and civic awareness by posting all committee agendas and minutes on our website. We are going to establish a Veterans Affairs Committee and become certified Veteran Friendly municipality by the State of New Jersey Veterans Chamber of Commerce. We are going to reestablish the Mayor's Wellness Committee to promote healthy living throughout Freehold Borough and create a Technology Committee to assess and enhance our IT system and security. Within the first six months some of the things we are going to do is implement a strategic parking management and traffic plan to benefit all residents and promote economic growth. Begin construction of a new water plant to ensure residents have continued clean and safe drinking water for many years to come. Finally, the installation of the pedestrian bridge at Lake Topanemus Park which we have been working on, it's under construction now and hopefully we can get that in within six months. Installation of the lights at the Little League Field and the dedication of Mayor Wilson Community Park. That will be done within this spring. We are going to work with officials in Neptune Township to bring World Changers back to Freehold Borough this summer, which was a popular program years ago. We are going to improve our Sustainable Jersey certification through the expansion of our Green Team by implementing innovative municipal programs to improve the quality of life for our residents. We have been in discussions with Joe Grillo and we are working on some ideas on how to make that even better. One year ideas; we're going to achieve Transit Village Designation by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. That's 85-90% of the way done so we are going to push that over the goal line and get that done. We are going to implement the Downtown Master Plan and Vision Plan to maintain our historic character and attract new businesses for our vibrant downtown.

In closing, being the Mayor of the Borough of Freehold is something I have dreamed of for many years. As I said earlier, I promise to work every day to make our town better. I'd like to thank Mayor Nolan Higgins for everything he has put in place for me to succeed. I am very

excited to see the plans we have been working on during the Higgins administration become a reality. Being a life-long resident of Freehold Borough, I understand the value of an engaged, close knit community, where everyone helps each other. The strength of our community is our diversity and we must embrace that. Our Borough Historian, Kevin Coyne, refers to our town as having an unusual mix of urban diversity and village intimacy. This is what makes Freehold Borough so special and this is what will be the driving force as we all champion the vision for our hometown. I wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year. Thanks again for joining us today. God Bless.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 36 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Council Comments”**

Councilwoman Rogers stated the following:

“I promise you I will not go on as long as Kevin. I want to thank everyone for coming out today, especially the football fans because I know our timing was a little off and you are missing the game, so I appreciate your sacrifice. I definitely want to thank my family who has supported me. Their unwavering support allowed me to do all the things I needed to do, especially my husband Dwight who has made it here today even though he has had some medical issues recently. He insisted on being here and I appreciate that. I appreciate all my family that is here today, some surprises, but I appreciate you all coming out. To the Council and our Mayor, I thank you for your support for the past year and that includes former Mayor Higgins. I look forward to working with the team going forward. To our community, I am honored to serve as your representative for the next three years. I have had the pleasure to work, worship and celebrate with many of you this past year and I look forward to meeting more of the people in this diverse and beautiful community. I’ve learned a lot this past year, but there is still much more to learn and much more to do. It is an exciting time for Freehold Borough. I am looking forward to working with the Downtown businesses and the residents, to put actions behind our revitalization plans. I am looking forward to working with our Mayor, Kevin Kane and my fellow Councilmembers to continue to explore avenues that will keep our taxes down and address issues that some feel have gone on for far too long. But most of all, I am looking forward to working FOR our community, to bring us closer together in a time where diversity seems to be taboo. We are a community that is rich in culture and we need to treasure that as we strive to make this the best town in not only New Jersey, but in this nation. Our diversity is our advantage that we can move to build an even better community. One important thing I learned this year was that the decisions that are made won’t make everyone happy, that’s nearly impossible. However, if we continue to work together as residents of this wonderful town, we can strive towards solutions that work for the community. Martin Luther King once said “An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of humanity.” That is my commitment to you, with every decision, with every vote, with every proposal, to consider not my personal needs, but the needs of this community as a whole. So I thank you once again for being here and God Bless you.

Councilman Adam Reich stated the following:

"Good afternoon everyone. I am extremely honored to be sitting here in front of you today. While I have sat at this dais many times over the 10 plus years, this is an entirely new experience and I am eternally grateful to the residents who have put their confidence in my running mates, Kevin and Margaret, and me. I am humbled by your support and trust. First and foremost, I want to thank my wife Tara, our two sons Ethan and Bradon, my parents Ron and Lynn and my sister Amanda. Your unconditional love, support and guidance has made me who I am and what motivates me to strive to be better tomorrow than I am today. I love you all very much. I'd also like to express my sincere gratitude to Manalapan's Deputy Mayor Susan Cohen, or as I endearingly call her, my second mother. Susan's son Eric and I met in Hebrew School and fast became best friends. I spent countless hours with Eric at her house, with her and her family at dinners, vacations and other events. She is a person I have come to deeply respect in her commitment to her family, her friends and the residents of Manalapan Township. I only felt it fitting that I ask Susan to administer my Oath of Office today. Even though she is no longer here, thanks Mom. Our 21<sup>st</sup> President, Chester A. Arthur said, "There are many characteristics which go into making a model civil servant. Prominent among them are; probity, industry, good sense, good habits, good temper, patience, order, courtesy, tact, self-reliance, many deference to superior officers, and many consideration for inferiors." I only hope that I carry these characteristics with me well, as I represent the people of Freehold Borough as a Councilperson. Servicing our town has been part of my family's history and it seemed only fitting that I follow in my family's legacy once I graduated from Syracuse University and returned to the Borough. I was honored to serve on the Board of Education for seven years, the Historic Preservation Committee for five years and the Planning and Zoning Board for ten years, of which I was the Chairman for the last three years. For me, campaigning for and being elected to our Borough Council seemed like the next logical step in my devotion to Freehold Borough and I am ecstatic to see this dream come true. Being involved with our town for so long has enabled me to become familiar with our history, the challenges we face and the very many opportunities that are available to us. I am very appreciative of all the residents who have taken up a similar charge and volunteered their time and energy as well as our First Responders who work tirelessly to keep watch over our fair town. It is for all these reasons that I am excited to work with everyone in our great Borough as we, together, prove that our hometown is a star on the map of New Jersey. Thank you once again for attending today's Reorganization and I wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year. Thank you."

Councilman Michael DiBenedetto stated the following:

"Thank you. Welcome all distinguished guests, family, friends, neighboring towns. For those of you that expect a long speech I conveniently left it at home with all the football games, food to be had and a four-year old granddaughter that said I have to be there for her Darth Vader birthday cake cutting. Alice, Happy Birthday also. I would like to congratulate Kevin Kane, Margaret Rogers and Adam Reich on their appointments today. I look forward to working with you all. Welcome Steve Gallo to our humble little town. I would also like to thank the Council for electing me President this year and the kind words from Councilman Schnurr. These words would not be heard if it wasn't for the God that puts people around me the last 23 years as good as they are. To our professionals, thank you for making us look good. Thank you for making

our town look good. Thank you for protecting us and serving us 24/7. To all of our volunteers, we thank you for coming out of your homes to serve on various committees to make decisions to better our town also. With that said, everyone have a happy and healthy new year.

Councilman Schnurr stated the following:

“Thank you Mayor Kane. I’d like to thank all of you for coming out today and help us start Freehold Borough’s legislative year at our Reorganization Meeting and the swearing in of Mayor Kane, Councilwoman Rogers and Councilman Reich. In this last election, the residents of Freehold Borough spoke after hearing from both sides. They overwhelmingly think we are going in the right direction and have the right people in place and you can see Mayor Kane has hit the ground running by what he said tonight. I want to congratulate Kevin, Margaret, Adam and their families on their election victory. Congratulations to all three of you. Outgoing Mayor Nolan Higgins has set a high standard of public service for subsequent members of the Freehold Borough Governing Body to follow. I’d like to recognize and thank him for eight years of dedication and service to the Borough of Freehold as Mayor. I promise to keep my end of the bargain by working hard to maintain the tradition of innovation, responsiveness and quality that Nolan Higgins has established. Thank you Nolan, for your service and leadership. I want to thank the volunteers who serve on the many boards, committees and volunteer organizations in Freehold Borough. Many members, as you heard today, are here. The people who serve on these organizations make a big difference every single day in Freehold Borough and I want to thank you for all that you do and thank you for making a difference in our community. Freehold Borough is not only run by the Mayor and Council and the various committees, we also have professionals that preform the day to day duties here in town, our employees are truly the unsung heroes of Freehold Borough and thank you for all that you do. I’d also like to thank the honored guests and dignitaries that have taken time out of their busy schedule as their attendance gives today much more meaning. Thank you Senator Gopal, Assemblyman Houghtaling, our past Mayors; Kane, Wilson and Higgins and the Committee Members from Freehold Township and Manalapan Township for attending today. In addition, I’d like to thank my family for their support and sacrifice. My wife Diane, has been very understanding and she realizes she has unconditional veto power over my role as a member of the Freehold Borough Council. I say this every year, to remind her of the power that she wields in our household. So before I ask you for your vote this coming November, I have to ask my wife for hers. And I wanted to make sure everyone understood our household dynamic. All of us up here on the Governing Body believe in Freehold and pledge to devote our time and energy keeping Freehold a great place to live, work and visit. Thank you and have a happy new year.

Councilwoman Jordan stated the following:

“First I want to congratulate Councilman Reich, Councilwoman Rogers and Mayor Kane. I look forward to working with all three of you, to implement a lot of the vision Mayor Kane mentioned today and moving forward and continuing to improve the Borough making this town a wonderful place to live. I want to thank everyone that came out today, especially the volunteers from town. We do a lot, but without the people who sit on our committees and work on our events and just make things so wonderful, this town wouldn’t be what it is without you. So I thank you and thank you for doing what you do. To Mayor Higgins, in this day and age

there are not a lot of politicians who come into office with respect and love. And for you to go out with even greater respect and love of all the people you served is an amazing accomplishment, so thank you for everything you did. Mr. Gallo, I am looking forward to working with you and I just want to wish everyone a happy new year and let's make it the best we possibly can.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the following:

"I have said this so many times and it's not in my prepared words, but because Senator Gopal's parents are here today, I want to say this again. I stood on the steps of the Statehouse in Trenton when we were fighting for fair funding in Freehold Borough for our schools and I blasted the politicians in Trenton. I said "I don't want to hear it until these people who are talking the talk learn how to do the walk". Then I will give my utmost appreciation publicly to those folks. I'm saying it again because as a parent, I want his parents to hear this. I, from the bottom of my heart, thank and as a grandmother with two children in the school system, I want to thank Eric Houghtaling, Joanne Downey and Senator Vin Gopal for what you did for our schools, the funding you got us and what you continue to do for our schools. You, your mother and father, should be very proud, as I'm sure you know. Thank you.

It is hard to believe that a year ago today Mayor Higgins announced that Freehold Borough was entering its 100<sup>th</sup> year of independence. It is even harder to believe that the year of celebrations is actually over. At the request of Mayor Higgins and under the chairmanship of former Mayor Kane, a very hard-working committee oversaw the celebrations culminating in a spectacular gala in September. We celebrated much more than just having existed for 100 years, we celebrated and continue to celebrate Freehold Borough's unique identity which was, in fact, a century in the making. As the bumper sticker says, "you cannot hide that Boro pride!"

We are, indeed, a proud community. We are proud of our history, of our diversity, of our vibrant downtown, of the conflicts that have allowed us to grow, of our employees, our professionals, our police force, our fire dept., our first aid, all of our volunteers, our residents, our schools, our neighborhoods and every other person and thing who has helped make Freehold Borough 100 years proud. Perhaps, most importantly, we are proud of our spirit. A spirit which rallies and supports and allows us to make positive things happen. A spirit that shouts "We are Freehold Borough and very proud of it!"

The year also brought some bittersweet moments: we said goodbye to our mayor of the last eight years and we said goodbye to our Business Administrator, Joe Bellina, of 20 years. Nolan, you have heard me say before that you were baptized by fire or storms. I distinctly remember the day that you invited my husband Richard to come to the funeral home to see the completed renovations and redecorations. Those of you who knew my husband know that before he became ill, he worked at the funeral home. Actually, he thought owned the funeral home. As we exited through the back door that day, you said, "It looks like we might get a storm." It was that storm that just about destroyed Barkalow Avenue and other streets in that area. Of course, we all know that you guided us through the two hurricanes that hit us so hard. I think the tone of your term was set when you and I went around town knocking on doors to make certain that

everyone was ok. You dragged me over wires and cables and impassable streets trying to find utility workers who could help our residents. In my mind, those days exemplify the proactive caring that you have shown throughout this town and throughout your term. My mother used to say that the greatest compliment she could ever be given was when someone said she had made a positive difference in another's life. As I said to Joe Bellina on his last day in Borough Hall and as I say now, Nolan, "You have made a difference in the lives of many, and that will be your legacy." Thank you, Nolan, and thank you Joe.

Mike, congrats on your election as president. Congratulations Adam and Margaret. The residents were smart to elect you and I look forward to working with you. Kevin, you have and have always had my respect and my support. I admire you, your knowledge and your heart all of which are exactly where they belong. I ask of you only one thing; do not kick me under the table as Mayor Wilson will advise you to do and do not set that timer when I start to talk as Mayor Higgins will advise.

As a resident, I say thank you to all of my colleagues for your service. I know what kind of time it takes and I know what kind of strain it puts on the families and I thank you as a resident for what you do. Thank you to my daughter Carey, my grandsons Brian and Brady for supporting me in my desire to serve. Thank you to all of the resident for allowing all of us to serve. And last but not least, thank you to 5 of the loveliest ladies I know; our past and present first ladies: Barbara Kane, Rita Wilson, Chris Higgins and Ellen Kane. A special thank you to Patty Schmigel, Kevin's mom. Not only is serving a family affair, but we all know that beside every successful man is a good woman. Tomorrow is a new day and the first business day under the new guidance of a new Mayor and of our new Business Administrator Steve Gallo. We welcome you both and look forward to a productive 101<sup>st</sup> year. In closing, as always:

May the sun bring you new energy by day

May the moon softly restore you by night

May the rain wash away all of your worries

May the breeze blow new strength into your body

May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life.

Thank you.

Mayor Kane acknowledged Freehold Township Committeeman Anthony Amiano, Bob Melvin from Pennoni, Bob and John Swisher from Suplee, Clooney & Co., former Zoning Board Attorney Vince Halleran and our engineering team from Abbington Engineering Bill Wentzien, Vince Creevy and Steve Kiselick. Mayor Kane announced Abbington Engineering is hosting a reception at 3:00 at 618 Restaurant, everyone is welcome to attend.

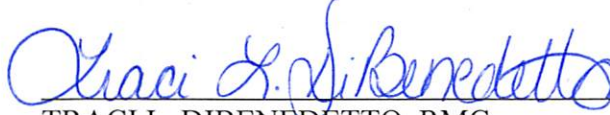
Mayor Kane stated if there is no further business, he asked for a motion to adjourn

Councilman DiBenedetto made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Traci L. DiBenedetto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "D".

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc